



Montana Department of **LABOR & INDUSTRY**

Commissioner's Office

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For Immediate Release:

A “Phishing” E-mail is Targeting Unemployment Insurance Claimants asking for Direct Deposit Information

(Helena, MT) The Department of Labor and Industry is warning Montanans who receive Unemployment Insurance Benefits, not to answer an e-mail sent from us-benefits.org. The e-mail asks recipients to activate their Direct Deposit Card by calling a 1-800 number or by clicking on a link.

“E-mails like this are extremely frustrating”, said Labor Commissioner Pam Bucy. “The Montana Department of Labor and Industry’s Unemployment Division does not send e-mails asking for Direct Deposit information. We want people to be aware that neither the Department nor the Federal government is affiliated in any way with [us-benefits](http://us-benefits.org), and anything that comes from them should be deleted.”

The website claims to allow people to file for their benefits; however the only official site for Montanans to use to get accurate information concerning Unemployment Insurance and to file a claim is at uid.dli.mt.gov. This site provides claimants with the latest information concerning Montana’s UI program. “We strongly recommend that Montanans only use the official website uid.dli.mt.gov developed and controlled by the State of Montana, when conducting UI claim or employer business. Using another site could lead to a delay in benefits and possible identity theft”, said Unemployment Insurance administrator Roy Mulvaney.

Some websites claim to have updated federal information and can look very official. Sites may ask for registration information and also allege to assist in helping expedite claim processing and the receipt of benefits. These sites mislead and may extract information from people who are anxious about their claims and are not endorsed by the State of Montana.

The Montana Department of Labor and Industry offers a full range of services free of charge, including unemployment benefits for those who lose their job through no fault of their own, and career services for those who wish to find a job, improve their skills, or find a better job.

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